(c) when the plans will be actually implemented; and

(d) what will be its effect on coal production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Policy on Private Investment

1867. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whther Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appearing in 'Observer' of 28th June, 1995 regarding Policy of Private Investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to make a comprehensive and coordinated policy for attracting private investment in the infrastructure industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and

(e) in what manner the need for professionals for the preparation of project report by different Ministries is sought to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The news item refers to the suggestion of a Member of Planning Commission for setting up a committee for evolving comprehensive policy framework for private investments in the infrastructure sector. The policy regarding private investment in infrastructure sector has been laid down in the Eighth Plan document according to which the public sector will continue to play a dominant role in this area and will have the ultimate responsibility of meeting the demands. However, if private initiative comes forward to participate in creating such infrastructure on reasonable terms and with full protection of peoples interest such initiative would be encouraged. Specific details for attracting private investment in different infrastructures industries have to be finalised by respective Central Ministries/Departments of Government of india.

(e) The services of professionals including consultants are availed of by different Ministries for preparation of project reports as and when necessary.

Survey by Tobacco Board Regarding Beedi Tobacco Cultivation

1868. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tobacco Board has made any survey of the extent of beedi tobacco cultivation in various States;

(b) if so, the details of acreage and production, State-wise during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(c) whether there is any proposal to give more attention to farmers cultivating beedi tobacco; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Tobacco Boards establishes platforms for auction of Virginia tobacco grown by the registered growers. In accordance with the provisions of the Tobacco Board Act, only Virginia tobacco growers are registered by the Board. Presently the Tobacco Board has no scheme for production and marketing of beedi tobacco.

More Funds to Gujarat for Development

1869. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to allocate more funds to Gujarat for the development of small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the amount allocated for the purpose during the current Five Year Plan period; and

(d) to what extent the amount allocated in this Plan is less than that of allocated in the last Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG) (a) There is no proposal from Government of Gujarat for increased Plan allocation for village and small industries (VSI) sector of which Small Scale Industries is one of the sub-sectors.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Eighth Plan outlay for VSI sector in Gujarat is Rs. 435 crores.

(d) The Eighth Plan outlay is more than three times the Seventh Plan outlay of Rs. 130.23 crores.

Increase in Prices of Edible salt

1870. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steep increase in the prices of edible salt in Delhi in the recent past;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the abnormal increase in the sale prices of salt; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to contain the prices?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) A statement showing the Retail Prices of edible iodised salt from August, 1994 to August, 1995 at Delhi is enclosed (*see* below).

(b) and (c) There is no control of Govt. on the price, procurement and distribution of salt. The prices of salt vary as per market condition, increase in cost of production and transportation, etc. However, a watch is being maintained on the trend in prices of salt by Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

Statement

Retail Prices of Edible Iodised salt in Delhi From August, 1994 to August, 1995.

Month	(Rs. Per kg.) Prices
August, 94	4.00
September,94	4.00
October, 94	4.00
November, 94	4.00
December, 94	4.00
January, 95	4.00
February, 95	4.00
March, 95	4.00
April, 95	4.00
May, 95	4.50
June, 95	4.50
July, 95	4.50
August, 95	4.50

Source: Delhi Administration.

Coal reserves in Madhya Pradesh

1871. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to answers to Starred Question 14 and Unstarred Question 91 given in the Rajya Sabha on 31st July, 1995 and state the total present estimated reserves of coal in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): As per assessment made by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), the estimated reserves of coal in Madhya Predesh as on 1-1-1995 (down to a depth of 1200 metres) are 40766.69 million tonnes.

Strike by Indian Workers in Kuwait

1872. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of certain recent reports indicating that 600 Indian workers working for a Korean firm in Kuwait went on a strike;

(b) if so, the details thereof;